the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by the way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes, which cover education, health, skill development, income generation, community development and infrastructure for income generation etc. In the last 3 years the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has spent the amount given below for achieving these objectives for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	1647.37
2007-08	1524.32
2008-09	1806.51

UNESCO's comments on ICDS

3338. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has criticized India's Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) on the ground that States with the worst malnutrition in the country have the lowest coverage of ICDS programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programme fails to preferentially target girls, children from lower castes and the poor; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) In the Report, UNESCO has observed certain inadequacies of ICDS, which appear to suffer from factual and contextual inaccuracies.

(b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme covers all children, including girls in the age group of 0-6 years and Pregnant and Lactating mothers, irrespective of their economic, social and gender status.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Plan for poor and weaker women

†3339. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a plan to improve the basic support system of the poor and weaker women; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) No Madam. However, there are schemes for rescue, relief, rehabilitation and economic empowerment etc. for women, the details of which are available at the website www.wcd.nic.in.

Anaemia in under five children of Rajasthan

3340. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven out of every 10 children below the age of five in the country, particularly in Rajasthan, have iron deficiency, anaemia, according to the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(b) if so, whether Government has analysed the reasons for such undernourishment among children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to eradicate such alarming level of malnutrition among children in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problem of malnutrition including anamia is multidimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and poor purchasing power. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns, poor breastfeeding and poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is addressing the problem of undernutrition in children below six years through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in all States/UTs. The ICDS provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education.

The Government has recently taken various steps, which include Universalisation of the Scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revision in cost norms as ell as the Nutrition and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS. In addition, Government has also introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi Centre level and new World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards for growth monitoring.

Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women